**Duty concession on life saving drugs**

†1363. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given any concession in customs and excise duty on live saving drugs; and

(b) if so the names of these drugs and what procedure has been followed for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has given concessions in customs and excise duty on specified life saving drugs and medicines.

(b) Life saving drugs and medicines covered in List 4 of Notification No. 21/2002-Customs dated 1.3.2002 [GSR No. 118 (E) dated 1.3.2002] as amended, are fully exempt from customs duty. They are also fully exempt from excise duty under Notification No. 6/2002-Central Excise dated 1.3.2002 [GSR No. 127 (E) dated 1.3.2002] as amended. Other life saving drugs or medicines are exempt from customs duties when imported by individuals for personal use, subject to certain conditions.

The concessions for these live saving drugs are given in consultation with the Ministry of Health.

**Loan advancement in the North East**

1364. SHRI RISHANG KEISHING: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of loan advanced by the Public Sector Banks in the country in 2002-2003 (State-wise);

(b) the share of the eight North East States out of the advanced loan amount; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to better the position of the North East States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The outstanding Gross Bank

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.